

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 INRE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 NSCE-00 IO-13 L-03 H-03 /096 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O: K. KURZE

8/12/73 21512

APPROVED BY S/S-O: K. KURZE

EA/LC - L. RIVES

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O 121422Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159499

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CB, US

SUBJECT: SYLVANA FOA AUG. 12 UPI TICKER ITEM

REF: AMBASSADOR HABIB - OPS CENTER TELECON AUG. 12

1. HEREIS FULL TEXT OF AUG. 12 UPI ITEM FROM PHNOM PENH  
BY SYLVANA FOA:

QUOTE WELL-INFORMED SOURCES SAID SUNDAY THAT HIGH-RANKING MEMBERS OF THE PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT HAVE ASKED THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION TO ARRANGE FOR THE REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT LON NOL AND THE IMMEDIATE RETURN OF EXILED PRINCE NORODON SIHANOUK.

IF THE UNITED STATES AGREES, HENRY KISSINGER WILL CARRY THE PLAN TO HIGH-RANKING CHINESE LEADERS DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO PEKING, THE SOURCES SAID.

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BASIC TO THE PLAN IS THE REMOVAL OF CRIPPLED CAM-

BODIAN RULER MARSHAL LON NOL AND KEY MEMBERS OF HIS ENTOURAGE FROM THE COUNTRY BY THE UNITED STATES, THE SOURCES SAID.

"THE AMERICANS WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO USE FORCE TO GET LON NOL TO LEAVE BUT FACE CAN BE SAVED ON BOTH SIDES IF HE IS TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL IN THE UNITED STATES FOR TREATMENT," ONE HIGH-LEVEL CAMBODIAN SAID.

WITHIN MOMENTS OF LON NOL'S DEPARTURE THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT WILL DISPATCH A TELEGRAM TO SIHANOUK AT HIS PEKING-BASED GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE ASKING HIM TO RETURN TO TAKE UP AGAIN THE REINS OF POWER, THE SOURCES SAID.

"SIHANOUK IS THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN SAVE CAMBODIA FROM FURTHER BLOODSHED AND POSSIBLE DESTRUCTION. THE COUNTRY NEEDS HIM DESPERATELY," SAID ONE OF THE MEN ACTIVE IN THE MARCH 18, 1970, COUP THAT OVERTHREW SIHANOUK.

"HIS RETURN WILL MOST CERTAINLY MEAN MY DEATH BUT CAMBODIA WILL AGAIN HAVE A CHANCE TO LIVE AND THAT IS WHAT WE ALL ALWAYS WANTED," HE SAID. "NOW IT IS UP TO THE AMERICANS. IF NIXON INSISTS UPON CONTINUING HIS SUPPORT OF LON NOL, IF NIXON INSISTS THAT LON NOL MUST REMAIN, THEN WE ARE ALL LOST." END QUOTE.

2. DEPARTMENT PRESENTLY HAS NO BACKGROUND OR INFORMATION TO REPORT ON STORY.

3. FOR PHNOM PENH: AMBASSADOR HABIB IS MEETING WITH FANK EX-CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL SAT MORNING AUGUST 13. SHOULD YOU HAVE COMMENT ON ITEM, SUGGEST IT BE SENT SEOUL AND DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATE. ROGERS

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